Switch over to latest technologies to combat drought in Orissa

588. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers in drought hit areas of Orissa have been advised to switch over to latest technologies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the inputs for new technology including new alternative crops, high yielding variety of seeds are supplied through Government or approved agencies;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether ICAR team had visited Orissa particularly district Kalahandi to implement drought crash contingencies plan; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The improved technologies for the rainfed upland drought hit areas of Orissa include the adoption of high yielding short duration rice varieties, deep sowing behind plough or with seed drill, timely chemical/mechanical weed control and optimal fertilizer use.

(c) and (d) Inputs such as high yielding variety seed and chemicals for weed control are planned to be supplied free of cost during the period of demonstrations. Later on certified seed of the high yielding varieties and chemical etc. will be made available by the State Govt. through appropriate agencies.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) A team from Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack comprising Director of the Institute, Senior Scientists from the disciplines of plant breeding, Agril. Engineering and Agronomy visited Kalahandi district from 9th to 13th April, 1989 to finalize the work plan in collaboration with Orissa State Department of Agriculture for implementation during the ensuing Kharif season.

Additional bauxite deposits at Koraput, Orissa

589. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether additional bauxite deposits have been found in Koraput, Kalahandi and Bolangir districts of Orissa;

(b) if so, the details of the areas surveyed by the Geological Survey of India in these districts;

(c) the extent of bauxite deposits discovered; and

(d) the steps taken for the proper exploitation of those areas?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c) The Geological Survey of India (GSI) in collaboration with Directorate of Mines Orissa carried out exploration for bauxite in Koraput, Kalahandi and Bolangir districts of Orissa under east coast bauxite project of 1976-77. Later on the Directorate of Mines, Orissa, worked in the Gandhamardan deposit, which falls partially in Bolangir and Sambalpur Districts and added additional reserve of bauxite in the Orissa Bauxite inventory. Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) carried out detailed exploration in several blocks and upgraded a part of the bauxite reserve to proved category. Bauxite reserves in Koraput, Kalahandi and Bolangir districts have been estimated at about 1052 million tonnes, 239 million tonnes and 158 million tonnes respectively.

(d) Based on the bauxite deposits at Panchpatmali in Koraput District, National Aluminium Company Limited was incorporated in 1981 to set up the largest integrated bauxite-alumina-aluminium Complex in Asia. The project is at an advanced stage of implementation and the company has gone into commercial production. The work on the development of